Press Release

VoiceObjects and IBM are going for Voice

London / Cologne – July 16, 2002

Integration with the WebSphere platform of IBM was effected simultaneously with the presentation of VoiceObjects Factory© 1.0.

Close cooperation in the future of commercial voice solutions was announced today by VoiceObjects AG and IBM at their joint press conference. “This cooperation runs for the entire life cycle of the projects, i.e. far beyond voice technology itself”, explains Duncan Ross, IBM European Business Manager for Voice Systems. The package consisting of VoiceXML, VoiceObjects Factory© 1.0 and the IBM WebSphere Voice Middleware provides broad access to information and also enables direct transactions. This means that IBM is extending its position as supplier of end-to-end voice solutions. “Open standards and the flexible build-up of and extension to voice applications following the Lego principle guarantees users complete investment security“, emphasises Karl-Heinz Land, CEO of the Cologne-based VoiceObjects AG. “The consequence is inevitable, the extension of e-business to include the voice interface is just as important as mobile interaction,” is Duncan Ross’ view. “The convergence of automated services via voice or web already enables value-added services, customer retention and an increase in efficiency.”

The integration of VoiceObjects Factory© into the IBM WebSphere platform is the first step towards the joint development of preconfigured voice solutions. This development is taking place at the VoiceObjects AG location in Bergisch Gladbach near Cologne.

VoiceObjects AG develops and markets the VoiceObjects Factory© the world's first open software platform for simple and fast creation of voice-controlled services. Following the Lego principle, so called VoiceObjects™ can be linked together for interactive dialogues of any complexity. VoiceObjects Factory© is an open platform based on standards such as VoiceXML or SALT, completely enclosing complex speech processing systems and other core technology. This enabling technology means ease of use in the first instance for users and designers of such voice-controlled solutions.

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IBM Software:
IBM is the world's largest corporation for information technology. IBM software offers a comprehensive range of user programs, middleware and operating systems for the new e-business era on all computer platforms.

Background information on WebSphere software:
With more than 35,000 customers world-wide, WebSphere is the fastest growing Java application server platform on the market. In the enterprise application integration sector, IBM is market leader with MQSeries as a messaging-based integration infrastructure.

Further information on IBM software can be obtained by visiting the website http://www.ibm.com/software and also http://www.ibm.com. IBM press information notices and photographs are also available to you in the internet press room by visiting: http://www.ibm.com/de/pressroom.

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